

In 1950 the Dumaguete provincial agricultural office began a project to cut down the standing dead buris in the poblacion to control the bakokang¹; the campaign lasted for six weeks. Table XIII indicates not only the extent of bakokang infestation but also the popularity of gubang since nearly all of the palms were killed by the process of making this drink.

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TABLE XIII

Bakokang Infestation of Buri Palms⁶⁹
Siaton Poblacion - 1951

Number of Dead Buri Palms Cut	Number of Bakokang Beetles Found in Cut Palms	Number of Bakokang Grubs Found in Cut Palms
576	738	32,299

In Caticugan the barriofolk make no attempt to control the bakokang. In fact, some people said they first learned the grub lived in the buri when the provincial agricultural office cut the dead palms in the poblacion. An abundant supply of firewood, the difficult job of cutting the large palms, and limited losses due to the beetle are major reasons why the barriofolk do not destroy dead buri palms. As one old man explained: "When the buri stops giving gubang, it is no longer loved."

Coconut trees have a number of uses in Caticugan. The nuts' husks are burned as fuel while the shells are used to make charcoal for the women's irons.

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⁶⁹Figures obtained from the Provincial Agricultural Office, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, 1950: Typescript. No pagination.

1[i.e., the coconut beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*)--Analyst]